

CLAIMS

1. A wheel rim comprising:
  - (a) a circular band; and
  - (b) at least one track located on the circular band capable of being
- 5 operatively coupled to respective ends of at least two spokes.
2. The wheel rim of claim 1 wherein the end of the spokes are capable of sliding relative to the track.
3. The wheel rim of claim 1 wherein the track comprises a groove capable of receiving and retaining a plurality of carriages operatively coupled
- 10 to respective ends of the spokes.
4. The wheel rim of claim 3 wherein each carriage is operatively coupled to a threaded end of the spoke(s).
5. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein each carriage comprises a spoke nipple.
- 15 6. The wheel rim of claim 3 wherein each carriage is operatively coupled to a non-threaded end of the spokes.
7. The wheel rim of claim 6 wherein the non-threaded end of the spokes comprises a hook or flat head.
8. The wheel rim of claim 2 wherein the track comprises a bar
- 20 adapted to retain the end of the spokes.
9. The wheel rim of claim 8 wherein the bar is adapted to retain a hook end of the spokes.
10. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein each carriage is operatively coupled to a spoke nipple.

11. The wheel rim of claim 2 wherein the track comprises an outward extension capable of operatively coupling to a carriage.
12. The wheel rim of claim 11 wherein outward extension comprises a T-shape capable of mating with the carriage.
- 5 13. The wheel rim of claim 1 wherein the track is located on an inner surface of the circular band.
14. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 wherein the track comprises at least one channel located on each of two opposed side surfaces of the circular band.
- 10 15. The wheel rim of claim 4 comprising a spacer carriage locatable on the track between adjacent carriages operatively coupled to a spoke nipple.
16. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein the plurality of carriages are operatively coupled to a strip.
- 15 17. The wheel rim of claim 4 wherein the plurality of carriages are operatively coupled to the strip by an adhesive.
19. The wheel rim of any one of claims 1 wherein the circular band comprises a channel located on an outer surface adapted to retain a tire.
20. A wheel comprising:
- 20 (1) a rim comprising:
- (i) a circular band; and
  - (ii) at least one track located on the circular band;
- (2) a plurality of spokes operatively coupled to the track and extending inwardly from the rim; and

(3) a hub located central of the wheel and operatively coupled to the rim by said plurality of spokes.

21. A method for operatively coupling a plurality of spokes to a wheel rim, including the step of operatively coupling ends of a plurality of  
5 spokes to a track located on an inner surface of a circular band of the rim, wherein the end of the spokes when operatively coupled to the track are slidable relative thereto.

22. The method of claim 21 further including the step of operatively coupling the spoke to the carriage via a spoke nipple and operatively  
10 coupling the carriage to the track.

23. The method of claim 22 further including the step of attaching one or more spacer carriages to the track between adjacent carriages.

24. The method of claim 23 further including the step of attaching an opposite end of the spoke not attached to the carriage to a hub.